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Governor O'Malley Releases Letter Confirming Chesapeake Executive Council Pledge to Engage All Citizens in Developing Bay Restoration Strategies

September 3rd, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, Chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council, today issued the following statement regarding the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, which was signed in June by leaders from six states, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the Federal government:

"Today it is my privilege to share a [letter to the Citizens of the Chesapeake Watershed](#) in which all nine partner jurisdictions have pledged to openly and publicly engage our citizens as we work together to carry out our commitments under the new Bay Agreement.

"One of the keys of the interstate Chesapeake Bay Program is setting quantifiable targets with short time horizons so that we can track our progress, so that there will be real accountability, and so that citizens can be engaged every step of the way. This letter memorializes the commitment we made at the June Executive Council meeting; we are on track to meet the September 16 deadline to identify management strategies we can put in place in the near term. The letter also reaffirms our commitment to involving all the citizens of this great watershed in every step of our efforts to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay, its living resources and surrounding lands."



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Governor O'Malley Issues Statement Supporting the Launch of the National Capital Region's 2024 Olympic Bid

September 4th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement on the launch of efforts to bring the 2024 Summer Olympic and Paralympic games to the National Capital Region:

"I'm excited to join Gov. McAuliffe and Mayor Gray to support the National Capital Region's bid for the 2024 Summer Olympics. Here in Maryland, we're focused on doing the things that work to create jobs, spur innovation and expand opportunity. As one of the greatest sporting events our world has ever known, the Olympics is one of the best diplomatic tools we have to transcend the walls that divide us and provide a spark of hope for the next generation. Hosting the Olympics will foster a lasting sports, tourism and cultural legacy for our nation while also highlighting Maryland and the Capital Region's seamless coordination, strength, diversity, and vibrancy on the ultimate global stage."



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Governor O'Malley Issues Statement on the Baltimore Ravens Releasing Ray Rice

September 8th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement on the Baltimore Ravens releasing Ray Rice from his contract:

"The video released this morning of this domestic assault was horrible, shocking, and reprehensible. Everyone can do more to help end the scourge of domestic violence. Please consider supporting the House of Ruth: <http://www.hruth.org/>, and learn about what Maryland is doing to reduce violence against women and children: <https://data.maryland.gov/goals/violence>."



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'Governing for Results' Series Highlights the New EARN Maryland Training Series to Expand Opportunities for Marylanders and Manufacturers

September 9th, 2014

BALTIMORE, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today visited Pompeian, Inc. in Baltimore to announce a new series of Manufacturing Boot Camps under the [EARN \(Employment Advancement Right Now\)](#) Maryland program. The visit is the latest event in the 'Governing For Results' series. The series highlights the O'Malley-Brown Administration's [16 strategic goals](#); today's event specifically highlights the goal [to increase the number of Marylanders who receive skills training by 20 percent by the end of 2018](#).



The Maryland Manufacturing Boot Camp is the first EARN-funded initiative designed by members of industry to provide a mixture of basic employability and manufacturing readiness skills. These skills will be offered to unemployed and under-employed candidates to prepare them for jobs in the manufacturing sector. The boot camp trainings were developed by EARN Maryland partner [Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership \(MEP\)](#) as a result of manufacturers expressing frustration in their attempts to recruit and retain qualified candidates.

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"We're doing the things that work to get Marylanders the skills they need for the un-filled, in-demand jobs," said **Governor O'Malley**. "Improving skills training and workforce development is just one of the things we're doing to expand opportunity for all Marylanders so that we can lift people out of poverty and strengthen our middle class."

The EARN Maryland initiative is managed by the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), and encourages regional workforce training collaborations among businesses, non-profits, institutions of higher education, community colleges, local workforce investment boards, local governments, and various types of workforce training providers. Supported by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, EARN Maryland is a proven strategy for providing Maryland's employers with skilled workers. Among similar initiatives around the country, this approach led to skills advancement, career building opportunities and increased wages.

"Through EARN Maryland, the state invests in employer-led skills training initiatives in some of our most high-demand sectors such as advanced manufacturing. We are pleased to see the creation of the Maryland Manufacturing Boot Camp and the cultivation of skilled workers to addresses the needs of Maryland employers," said **Maryland Department of Labor Secretary Leonard Howie**.

Baltimore based since 1906, Pompeian, Inc. is the largest olive oil importer and producer in the U.S. In addition to being America's largest national brand of olive oil, best-selling wine vinegars and a variety of cooking wines, Pompeian is the first brand to carry the USDA Quality Monitored seal on its extra virgin olive oil.

"As a proud Baltimore resident and leading manufacturer since 1906, Pompeian is excited to partner with EARN Maryland to showcase the benefits and great career paths that manufacturing has to offer," said **Pompeian, Inc. Chief Executive Officer, David Bensadoun**. "EARN Maryland is exactly the kind of support that we as a manufacturer need to support the growth of our business, and allow us to continue serving as the largest olive oil importer and producer today."

The first full Manufacturing Boot Camp will be held at Pompeian from October 13 to November 21, 2014, and other classes will follow around the state. EARN Maryland has invested \$455,000 in the statewide Maryland Manufacturing Boot Camps Partnership and training is offered to Marylanders looking to obtain new skills and good jobs.

The press conference today continues the '[Governing For Results](#)' series — a statewide effort to promote the [O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals](#) and highlight Maryland's progress in the areas of opportunity (jobs and schools), sustainability, public safety, and health. Kicked off in early June, events will continue over the next several months and will chronicle some of the results-oriented, data-driven strategies the Administration is using to make Maryland a safer, healthier place with more jobs and opportunity for all Marylanders.



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Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown Issue Statement Applauding Team Maryland for \$10 Million in BRAC Investments

September 9th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown today issued the following statement applauding the Maryland Congressional Delegation for providing \$10 million in federal funding to advance the MD 175 widening project at Fort George G. Meade toward construction:

"Once more, Team Maryland is delivering on the State's top priority to meet the growing needs of the tens of thousands of military jobs created by BRAC. The MD 175 widening project will break a major bottleneck and unlock a critical link between schools, communities, local businesses and Fort Meade — one of the State's largest employers. With this important investment, we are improving our transportation infrastructure, creating jobs and strengthening Maryland's military readiness. Thanks to the entire Congressional Delegation, working together, Maryland is building one of the strongest transportation networks in the region. Team Maryland understands that investing in transportation is key to creating jobs and expanding opportunity for years to come."



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Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown Announce Harpoon Medical Tapped for InvestMaryland Funds

September 10th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown today announced that the [Maryland Venture Fund](#) (MVF), DBED's venture capital arm, has invested \$500,000 in [Harpoon Medical Inc.](#), the developer of a minimally invasive device to repair mitral heart valves. With the investment, the Stevensville company aims to replace three to six hours of open-heart surgery with a 60-minute, closed-chest procedure and reduce recovery time from several weeks to a matter of days. The Series A financing was led by Maryland-based Epidarex Capital and will result in up to \$3.75 million in new capital for the company. The State's portion was made with funds raised by InvestMaryland, an initiative of Governor Martin O'Malley's administration that spurs growth and development of small, high-tech companies in Maryland.

"Maryland supports high-tech startup companies that are moving our economy forward, creating jobs, and expanding opportunity," **Gov. O'Malley** said. "Harpoon Medical is a prime example of the exciting, innovative young companies that are thriving in Maryland's medical device sector, improving patient care and, ultimately, saving lives."

"Our InvestMaryland program helps cutting-edge Maryland businesses grow and stay in our state," added **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "By investing in entrepreneurs and startups like Harpoon Medical, we're helping create Middle Class jobs while laying the foundation for the next generation of innovative businesses in Maryland."

"We are very happy that the Maryland Venture Fund decided to invest in Harpoon Medical and are extremely grateful for all the support the company has received from the State of Maryland and organizations throughout the state focused on helping early-stage life science companies," said **Bill Niland, Harpoon's CEO and a serial healthcare entrepreneur**. "There is still a lot of work that needs to be done to secure regulatory approval and transform Harpoon Medical into a commercially viable business but we would not be where we are today without early support from organizations like BioMaryland and TEDCO. By leveraging their support, Maryland Venture Fund's investment and the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit program, Harpoon was able to secure the funding that will be necessary to advance

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this innovative technology into the clinic.”

Harpoon Medical is a development-stage medical device company commercializing a minimally invasive, image-guided surgical tool for beating heart mitral valve repair. The technology was developed in the Division of Cardiac Surgery at The University of Maryland School of Medicine. With the Harpoon device, surgeons will be able to access and repair the mitral valve in a beating heart through a small incision between the ribs without the need for cardiac arrest or cardiopulmonary bypass. The tool is designed to enter the left ventricle transapically and insert “bulky knot” neochords in the valve leaflet to eliminate mitral regurgitation. The investment round, which exceeded the company’s original fundraising target, was structured to benefit from Maryland’s Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit. Harpoon Medical was also a finalist in the second [InvestMaryland Challenge](#).

Created by Governor O’Malley and passed by the General Assembly in 2011, InvestMaryland is a public-private partnership between the State and venture capital firms. It raised \$84 million to spur growth in small, high-tech Maryland companies and is the largest venture capital investment initiative in Maryland’s history. Two-thirds of the funding – \$56 million – is being managed by carefully screened private venture firms that will invest the funds and, if successful, return 100% of the principal and 80% of the profits to the State’s general fund. The remaining third of the InvestMaryland capital is largely allocated to direct investments by the state-run MVF.

The Maryland Venture Fund is a regionally recognized leader in seed and early-stage investing and a national model for state-supported investment programs. With nearly two decades of experience and numerous successful investments, MVF invests in highly innovative technology companies across the full range of industry sectors including software, communications, cybersecurity and life sciences companies in the areas of healthcare IT, medical devices and diagnostics.

About DBED

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State’s many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. For more information, visit [ChooseMaryland.org](#).



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Governor O'Malley and Lt Governor Brown Celebrate Historic Portrait Unveiling at Government House

September 16th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Yesterday evening, Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown made Maryland history with the unveiling of a portrait of Frederick Douglass – the first portrait of an African American to grace the walls of the Governor's residence in Maryland. The painting was presented during an evening reception at Government House in Annapolis.



(Left to right) Gov. Martin O'Malley; First Lady Katie O'Malley; artist Simmie Knox; Eddie and Sylvia Brown; Susan Taylor, former editor-in-chief of Essence and husband, Khephra Burns; and Ted Mack, Chairman of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture.

Several prominent figures came together to view the historic portrait and celebrate the [O'Malley-Administration's ongoing commitment to expanding opportunity for all Marylanders](#). Among those in attendance were U.S. Secretary of Labor, Tom Perez;

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Susan L. Taylor, former editor-in-chief of Essence magazine; and various elected officials, business and community leaders

"Thanks to the support of Eddie and Sylvia Brown, and the exceptional talent of Simmie Knox, we've left the next generation with an inspiring tribute to one of the greatest Americans our country has ever known," said **Gov. O'Malley**. "With the unveiling of the Frederick Douglass portrait, Maryland begins the next two hundred years of leading our country, together."

"Frederick Douglass spent his life fighting for freedom and equality," said **Lt. Governor Brown**. "Today, as we hang his portrait in Government House, we continue to work each and every day to honor his legacy and build a more just, fair, and equal society where every child has an opportunity to grow and succeed."

The commission and dedication of this historic portrait is but one example of Gov. O'Malley's longstanding efforts to increase diversity and inclusion in the State of Maryland and to inspire other states that have yet to take action in furtherance of these principles. Those efforts also include the recognition of prominent African Americans. As Mayor of Baltimore, Governor O'Malley and his Administration instituted much-needed diversity in public meeting rooms by replacing portraits from the Colonial period with those of African American leaders and other change-makers from Baltimore City and across the State. Governor O'Malley further demonstrated his appreciation and support of African American history with the establishment of the [African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program](#) in 2010. Since the Program's inception, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has provided over \$3 million for 43 African American historic preservation projects across the State.



The painting is the result of a partnership between the State of Maryland and [Eddie C. Brown](#), Chairman, CEO and founder of [Brown Capital Management, LLC](#) — the oldest African American investment firm in Maryland and the second oldest firm in the country. Mr. Brown and his wife, Sylvia Brown, have made significant philanthropic contributions to the SEED schools in Baltimore, Md. and Washington, D.C., as well as the Maryland Institute of College of Art (MICA) and the Baltimore Museum of Art.

“Frederick Douglass famously said ‘I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong.’ Commissioning this portrait of Douglass, a great American, under the leadership of Governor O'Malley for the Government House was simply the right thing to do, the right choice for me and my family,” said **Eddie C. Brown, Chairman, CEO and Founder of Brown Capital Management.**

“I have painted Frederick Douglass before but this portrait is special, because of the historic representation it holds in the Maryland Archive collection and because of Governor O'Malley's admiration for Frederick Douglass. I am honored to have been chosen to paint it,” **Simmie Knox, renowned and celebrated portraitist**, commented.

Knox became the first African-American artist to create an official U.S. presidential portrait — he painted President Bill Clinton in 2004. Other notable portraits he painted include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, and late Maryland State Sen. Clarence Blount. Mr. Knox's first portrait of Frederick Douglass in 1976 is part of the Smithsonian Institute art collection and is now located in the Center for African American History and Culture, in Anacostia, Washington D.C.

Click the link to hear Gov. O'Malley discuss the portrait on the Joe Madison Show: <https://soundcloud.com/joemadisontheblackeagle/governor-martin-o-malley-on-the-madison-show>



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Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Kick off Third Annual InvestMaryland Challenge

September 17th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown today officially launched the third [InvestMaryland Challenge](#), Maryland's national business competition. The Challenge is part of Maryland's comprehensive strategy to grow the State's thriving entrepreneurial community and create jobs — it connects innovative startups with the resources they need to reach the next level. Winners in four categories—Information Technology; Defense and Security; Life Sciences; and Sustainability and Exploration—will each receive \$100,000 grants. The Maryland [Department of Business and Economic Development](#) (DBED) is awarding the prize money through the [Maryland Venture Fund](#) and [BioMaryland Center](#). As in previous years, DBED is working with partners and sponsors to expand the pool of prizes that will be awarded when the Challenge concludes in the spring. Prizes include cash grants, incubator space, marketing and legal services, and opportunities to pitch investors. For more information or to apply, visit www.investmarylandchallenge.org.

Some past InvestMaryland Challenge winners created a video urging early-stage business owners to enter the Challenge. Since bringing home \$100,000 grand prizes for their categories, these ambitious entrepreneurs have hired new workers, launched new product lines and earned new investment. Now they ask, "[Who will be next?](#)"

"For three years in a row, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has ranked Maryland the #1 state for innovation and entrepreneurship," **Governor O'Malley** said. "The InvestMaryland Challenge is just one part of our ongoing efforts to foster innovation, promote economic growth, and create jobs."

"The InvestMaryland Challenge helps create jobs and grow our economy by supporting Maryland's cutting-edge small businesses," **Lt. Governor Brown** added. "We're committed to helping our small and innovative businesses grow, thrive, and stay here in Maryland, where they'll create middle class, family-supporting jobs for more of Maryland's workers."

The Challenge is limited to companies with fewer than 25 employees and less than \$1 million in annual revenue. New this year is that all four categories will be open to

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businesses located in Maryland, in other states, and abroad. Out-of-state and country winners will have to establish an office in Maryland and spend a majority of the funding here if they win a top prize. The Department also expanded the scope of the four categories to better reflect the diversity of Maryland's startup companies.

Applications are due Dec. 12. Companies that enter in the first month of the Challenge will pay a discounted fee of \$49. The fee will rise to \$99 after Oct. 16. Company entries and business plans will be evaluated by teams of expert judges that include successful entrepreneurs, angel investors, venture capitalists, high-tech and scientific researchers, top-level executives and others who work with startups. The top 10 companies in each category will move on to face-to-face interviews with panels of judges. Winners will be chosen from the top three finalists in each category. Along the way, applicants will also have many opportunities to network with their competitors as well as judges to connect them with potential customers and partners.

The inaugural Challenge, launched in 2012, awarded more than \$425,000 in cash prizes and services and drew 259 contestants in three categories from 10 states and Washington D.C., with companies applying from as far away as California, Georgia and Massachusetts. In its second year, the Challenge added a fourth category and increased the prize pool to nearly \$1 million.

The Challenge is an offshoot of InvestMaryland, one of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's key economic initiatives. Created in 2011, InvestMaryland is a public-private partnership between the State and venture capital firms. It raised \$84 million to spur growth in small, high-tech Maryland companies and is the largest venture capital investment initiative in Maryland's history. Two-thirds of the funding – \$56 million – is being managed by carefully screened private venture firms that will invest the funds and, if successful, return 100% of the principal and 80% of the profits to the State's general fund. The remaining third of the InvestMaryland capital is largely allocated to direct investments by the state-run Maryland Venture Fund.



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Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Announce 2014 Early College, Digital Learning Grantees

September 18th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced \$4.9 million in grants through the 2014 Digital Learning Innovation Fund and the Early College Innovation Funds. This is the second year that the grants, which promote programs to prepare students to compete in the 21st century economy, have been awarded in Maryland.

"Together, the Digital Learning and Early College grants provide a critical resource to expanding educational opportunity for students across our State," said **Governor O'Malley**. "These funds will ensure that our students continue to be among the highest achieving in the nation, and can compete for jobs in a changing economy."

The Digital Learning Innovation Fund helps local school systems maximize the potential of new and emerging technologies to improve the teaching and learning environment, as well as to better prepare all students for the workforce of today and the future. Nine school systems were awarded the second round of Digital Learning Innovation Fund grants, which totaled \$3.5 million, and will enable schools to utilize new and emerging technologies to strengthen student learning.

The Early College Innovation Fund supports efforts in Maryland to increase access to postsecondary education and help students obtain the credentials necessary to compete for jobs in growing sectors of the state's economy. This year, four school system-postsecondary education partnerships were awarded the second series of Early College Innovation Grants, which totaled \$1.4 million, and will help further develop partnerships between local school systems and higher education institutions and expand access to college.

"Our Digital Learning and Early College Innovation Grant programs prepare Maryland students for future success," said **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "These investments will ensure more of our young men and women have access to the most innovative technologies in the classroom and are better prepared for continued success in college or a career."

As part of Governor O'Malley's [16 Strategic Goals](#), the O'Malley-Brown Administration remains committed to [improving student achievement and school,](#)

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[college, and career readiness in Maryland by 25% by the end of 2015](#). Both the Digital Learning Innovation Fund and the Early College Innovation Fund are critical parts of the Administration's efforts to expand access to quality education for all Maryland students. These programs build on Maryland's record success in education and continue to ensure that students can not only graduate with the skills they need to succeed, but also compete for jobs.

"Our goal is to ensure each one of our students is ready for college or career by the time they receive their high school diploma, and these grants lead us in that direction," said **State Superintendent of Schools Lillian M. Lowery**. "Cutting-edge educational technology and new early college programs offer tools that move our students forward."

[The Maryland State Department of Education](#) (MSDE) awarded Digital Learning Innovation Grants to the following school systems: Baltimore County (\$300,000), Carroll County (\$340,000), Frederick County (\$500,000), Garrett County (\$232,000), Harford County (\$510,000) Howard County (\$500,000), Prince George's County (\$350,000), Somerset County (\$470,000), and Wicomico County (\$400,000).

MSDE awarded Early College Innovation Grants to the following partnerships: Hagerstown Community College partnering with Washington County Public Schools (\$196,976), Howard County Public Schools working with Howard Community College (\$248,016), Montgomery County Public Schools in partnership with Montgomery College (\$173,662.50), and Prince George's Community College (\$600,000).

After five years of number-one-in-the nation rankings, the [O'Malley-Brown Administration's FY 15 budget](#) included over \$6 billion in new investments in education and an additional \$275 million in school construction. Earlier this year, the Governor signed the [Administration's 2014 pre-k education legislation](#) into law, expanding options for 1600 additional pre-schoolers across Maryland through a grant program and paving the way for further statewide expansion in coming years. According to College Board, Maryland not only [has the lowest college tuition in the nation](#), students in Maryland also [rank #1 in AP success](#). Additionally, in 2014, data found that Maryland students are [graduating from high school at the highest rate](#) in the State's history.



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DBED Secretary Murray Joins Sephora Executives for Opening of New Distribution Center

September 19th, 2014

BALTIMORE, MD – Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) Secretary Dominick Murray today joined with executives from Sephora Americas, the leading prestige beauty retailer, to officially open the company's new 650,000 square-foot distribution facility in Perryman. The Company, which has operated in Harford County since 2005, plans to retain its existing workforce of 410 employees, and add another 200 full-time jobs by December 2017. To assist with the project, the State approved a \$1 million grant, which will be paid out in stages provided the company meets performance benchmarks.

"Our investments in education, innovation and infrastructure continue to set Maryland apart and offer quality brands like Sephora Americas a competitive advantage in today's marketplace," said **Governor Martin O'Malley**. "We're thrilled Sephora has chosen to expand operations in Maryland and is continuing to create new jobs."

"We are pleased to continue to work with Sephora Americas' as they expand and create 200 new jobs for Maryland's workers," said **Lt. Governor Anthony Brown**. "We remain committed to investing in world-class companies like Sephora, ensuring that they continue to grow and stay in our state."

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Attending today's ribbon cutting were President and CEO of Sephora Americas Calvin McDonald; Chief Financial Officer Alexis Rollier; and Senior Vice President Mike Racer. Harford County Economic Development Director Jim Richardson also attended.

"I was pleased to join with Sephora executives to open this new state-of-the-art E-commerce facility, which will help the company move products to their customers that much faster," said **Secretary Murray**. "Sephora has been an outstanding corporate citizen and we are pleased to see them continue to make their home in Maryland."

"We are thrilled to officially open our new distribution center and are tremendously grateful for our partnership with DBED and the State of Maryland. All of us at Sephora are looking forward to having a larger presence in Harford County through this exceptional new distribution center that will enable us to provide even more rapid and efficient service to our clients," said **Marty Flaherty, Vice President of Distribution, Sephora Americas**.

Headquartered in San Francisco, Sephora Americas operates more than 330 stores in the U.S. and Canada and more than 380 locations in J. C. Penney department stores. The Company also operates the world's top beauty website, Sephora.com. Sephora is well known for its unique retail concept, which is rooted in its distinctive open-sell store design, the beauty expertise of its sales consultants and, most importantly, its unparalleled combination of over 200 classic and emerging brands across a broad range of product categories. Sephora has also been recognized as a leading digital brand and continues to advance this arena through mobile and social media initiatives. Sephora was founded in France in 1970 and acquired in 1997 by Paris-based LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the world's leading luxury products group. Sephora Americas launched in 1998. For further information, please visit www.sephora.com

About DBED:

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. Because they are major economic generators, the Department also supports the Arts, film production, sports and other special events. For more information, visit www.choosemaryland.org.



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Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Announce Eight Companies Selected for Advance Maryland Program

September 22nd, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 22, 2014) –Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown and Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB) President Tom Sadowski today announced that eight Maryland companies have been selected to participate in second annual Advance Maryland, the State's business program targeted at supporting second-stage companies. The program is designed to follow an "economic gardening" strategy, allowing existing companies to grow from within by using critical strategic information customized to their needs.

Selected companies include American Energy Corporation (Elkton); Coherent Technical Services (Lexington Park); Direct Dimensions (Owings Mills); Laurrapin (Havre de Grace); Mobern Lighting Company (Jessup); Potomac Photonics (Halethorpe); Unleashed Technologies (Columbia); and basys (Linthicum).

"Maryland does best when young, innovative companies like [Unleashed Technologies](#) of Columbia get the valuable insight they need to grow and create jobs," said **Governor O'Malley**. "Our first year of Advance Maryland was a tremendous success, and we are pleased to select these eight companies and provide them with expert advice and research to help them move to the next level of growth."

"Our Advance Maryland program is helping Maryland-based companies grow and stay in our state by providing the expertise and advice they need to take their businesses to the next level," said **Lt. Governor Brown**. "Through this partnership with the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, we're creating jobs, supporting small and medium-sized businesses, and laying the foundation for continued economic growth in Maryland."

"Companies in the second-stage of growth represent a tremendous opportunity to create jobs and fuel expansion," said **DBED Secretary Dominick E. Murray**. "We are pleased to partner with the EAGB on this program – the State's first economic gardening initiative – and want to congratulate all the companies that have been selected. We look forward to seeing some impressive results over the next year."

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By partnering with the National Center for Economic Gardening, Advance Maryland is able to provide eight to 12 hours of strategic research services to each of the selected applicants. This month, research teams will begin meeting with the companies to identify goals, opportunities, and strategies, while offering recommendations and next steps to help develop and grow the business. Projects during this collaboration may include prioritizing sales leads and refining business models, as well as using social media to connect with customers and create buzz about products and services. DBED and EAGB will monitor companies for one year to determine their progress.

"Advance Maryland is about taking strategic action to support CEOs and help them grow their business. Their success in turn helps grow our economy, add valuable jobs and provides fertile ground for the success of other business owners and entrepreneurs," noted **Tom Sadowski, President and CEO of the EAGB**.

"As a fast-growing company in an ever-evolving industry, we rarely have the luxury to step back and consider what other opportunities our core strengths and solid market position might afford us," says **basys President & CEO Jenny Morgan**. "We think the insights, perspective and guidance of the Advance Maryland experts will help us look further out on the horizon at ways to position ourselves for even more success in the future."

Second-stage companies play a critical role in job creation and are vital to the prosperity and sustainability of local economies. Typically, these companies represent those with 10-99 employees and revenue from \$1M to \$50M. According to the Edward Lowe Foundation, while second-stage companies represented only 12 percent of U.S. establishments between 1995 and 2012, they generated about one-third of jobs and sales.

Economic gardening originated in Littleton, Colo., in the 1980s, under the direction of Chris Gibbons, then-director of the city's business and industry affairs and now CEO of the National Center for Economic Gardening. During the 20-year period Gibbons practiced economic gardening, jobs grew from 15,000 to 30,000 and sales tax revenue more than tripled from \$6M to \$21M.

About EAGB:

The Economic Alliance was created to serve as a not-for-profit economic development organization led by a partnership of regional business executives, elected government officials and leaders from higher education focused on fostering business retention and development, job creation, workforce development and new investment throughout the Greater Baltimore region. For more information, visit www.GreaterBaltimore.org.

Media contact: Jen Meyer; 410-468-0100.

About DBED:

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and

abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. Because they are major economic generators, the Department also supports the Arts, film production, sports and other special events. For more information, visit www.choosemaryland.org.



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Governor O'Malley Highlights the Many Ways Marylanders Can Register to Vote on National Voter Registration Day

September 23rd, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor O'Malley today highlighted the many ways Marylanders can register to vote and the importance of participating in the 2014 elections in Maryland. The deadline to register to vote for the 2014 elections is Tuesday, October 14, 2014.

"Government works best when more people participate at the ballot box," said **Gov. O'Malley**. "We're doing more, not less, to give young people, the mentally disabled, our military, and so many others the opportunity to make their voices heard in their communities, and exercise what Dr. Martin Luther King called, 'civil right number one' — the right to vote."

Over the last seven years, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has taken action to expand access to voting, and to make the process simple and easy for all eligible voters in the State of Maryland. Governor O'Malley proposed and signed legislation allowing for same-day registration in the 2016 elections. In 2011, he signed legislation establishing online voter registration, and since implementation, the system has registered over 70,000 voters. During the 2012 election cycle, 108,000 Marylanders used the system to register or modify their voter registration.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration has also worked tirelessly to protect and secure the people's right to vote. In 2007, Governor O'Malley signed legislation restoring voting rights to an estimated 52,000 individuals who completed court-ordered sentences, including parole or probation for a felony conviction. Maryland also passed legislation allowing residents who at least 16 years of age to register to vote and allow other young Marylanders to participate in primaries as long as their 18th birthday comes before the general election that same year.

Maryland also established protections through an amendment in 2010 clearing the way for mentally disabled individuals under guardianship to get registered to vote. As a result, a court must find clear and convincing evidence that an individual cannot communicate their desire to vote. Additionally, working with a bipartisan coalition in the General Assembly, Governor O'Malley signed legislation moving state and presidential primaries to dates earlier in the year, which also ensures that members

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of the military have enough time to vote under the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. More information on the O'Malley-Brown Administration's efforts to protect and secure the people's right to vote [can be found here](#).

Marylanders can register to vote online or complete a voter registration application at:

- Online at www.elections.maryland.gov
- Local board of elections
- The State Board of Elections
- The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- The Department of Social Services
- The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)
- Offices on Aging
- The MTA Paratransit Certification Office
- All public institutions of higher education
- Recruitment offices of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Marriage license offices (including County Clerk's offices)
- Offices for students with disabilities at all Maryland colleges and universities



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Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Announce Infant Mortality Rates in Maryland Show Downward Trends Over Last Decade; Small Increase in 2013

September 26th, 2014

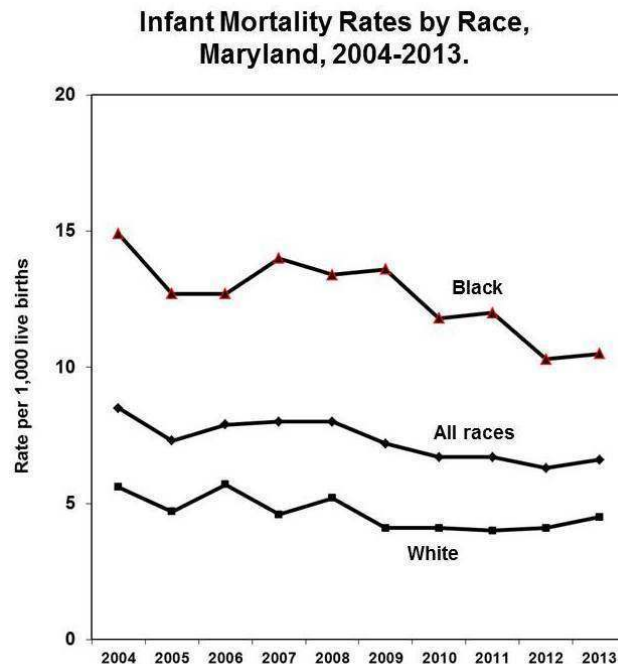
ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene announced today that the average infant mortality rate has been driven down by 15 percent in Maryland in the past decade, with a 20 percent decline in the average rate among white infants and a 14 percent decline among black infants. Both the neonatal mortality rate (deaths among infants younger than 28 days per 1,000 live births) and post neonatal mortality rate (deaths among infants between 28 days and 11 months old) have been driven down substantially, when comparing 2004-2008 to 2009-2013.

As a result of declines in infant mortality since 2007, 457 more babies in Maryland have survived.

"Our goal to reduce infant mortality is about more than just numbers — its about creating common platforms to save more of our children," said **Gov. O'Malley**.

"There is no such thing as a spare Marylander, and together, we will continue to build on this critical progress so we can support more Maryland families and protect young lives."

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In 2013, Maryland's infant mortality rate was 6.6 per 1,000 live births, compared with a rate of 6.3 in 2012. The small increase, which followed several years of declines, reflects the year-to-year variability in infant mortality rates. A total of 473 infants died in 2013, compared with 458 in 2012. There was a 10 percent increase in deaths among white infants and a 2 percent increase among black infants. No single cause of death was responsible for the increase. The leading causes of infant death were low birth weight, congenital abnormalities, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and maternal complications of pregnancy.

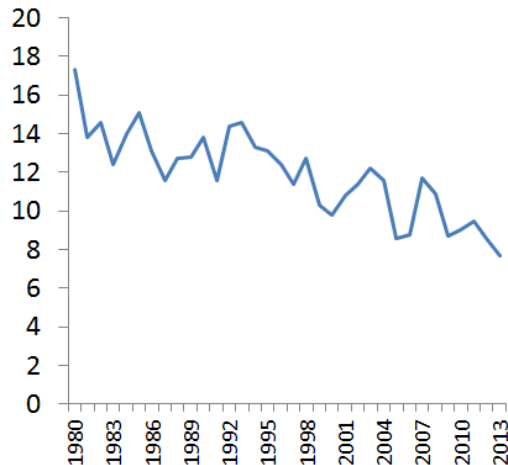
"Ensuring that all of Maryland's children are safe is one of our most sacred responsibilities, and we remain committed to helping every child in our state have the same opportunity to live a healthy, productive life," said **Lt. Gov. Brown**. "Even one infant death is too many, and we must continue our efforts to get parents the resources, services, and education they need to ensure a brighter, healthier future for all of our children."

As part of 16 strategic goals to move Maryland forward, the O'Malley-Brown Administration [set the goal](#) of reducing the statewide infant mortality rate from the record low of 6.3 by another 10 percent by 2017. A second goal is to reduce the African-American infant mortality rate by 10 percent by 2017.

An example of significant improvement over the last decade can be found in Prince George's County. The overall infant mortality rate in the county fell from an average of 10.3 from 2004 to 2008 to an average of 8.7 from 2009 to 2013, a decline of more than 15%. Over the last year, the infant mortality rate fell from 8.6 percent in 2012 to 7.7 percent in 2013. For whites, the rate fell from 6.4 percent to 4.9 percent. For blacks, it fell from 9.3 percent to 8.4 percent.

"The progress in Prince George's County shows what is possible to accomplish for the health of families and children," said **Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**.

Infant mortality rate in Prince George's County



Other new resources made available by the State include expanded health care access for young women and parents, health enterprise zones in challenged areas of the state, expanded access to family planning services, local public health efforts, and instruction in safe-sleep practices. The state's [Babies Born Healthy Initiative](#) added Comprehensive Women's Health services for women at risk, accelerated Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women, and added community-based "perinatal navigators" to help pregnant and postpartum women access services.

DHMH in 2013 banned the sale of crib bumper pads in Maryland, after receiving public and expert input that the risks of these products far exceeded any potential benefits for babies. In addition, the state has continued to distribute the B'More for Healthy Babies video on safe sleep at <http://healthybabiesbaltimore.com>.

To review the Department's newly released 2013 Infant Mortality Report, visit: <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/vsa/AnalyticsReports/2013.pdf>.



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Maryland Community College Consortium Secures Nearly \$15 Million Department of Labor Workforce Training Grant

September 29th, 2014

ANNAPOLIS, MD – U.S. Department of Labor officials announced that Maryland was among the awardees of the latest round of grants as part of the [Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training initiative](#) (TAACCCT). Thanks to bipartisan support from Maryland's Congressional delegation and the State's unique position at the forefront of cyber security development and innovation, the application from Maryland's Cyber Technology Pathways Across Maryland Consortium (C-PAM) secured nearly \$15 million to help build out the program and help create more pathways to jobs in Maryland's rapidly-growing cyber industry.

"There is no progress without a job, and jobs-focused investments like the Community College and Career training initiative help drive our efforts to achieve our strategic goal of increasing skills training by 20 percent by 2018," said **Gov. O'Malley**. "With the support of our dynamic Congressional delegation and innovative partnerships like C-PAM leading the way, we will continue to create family-sustaining jobs for more Marylanders, and solidify our State's position as the global epicenter for cyber security."

"I want to congratulate Montgomery College and C-PAM on receiving this federal grant, which will allow them to continue creating additional job and training opportunities for Marylanders in our thriving cyber security industry," said **Lt. Governor Brown**. "Career and Technology Education programs like this one are an integral part of creating a stronger, more diverse workforce. Thanks to the support of Maryland's Congressional Delegation and innovative partnerships like C-PAM, we are continuing to grow our economy and create a more promising future for our state."

Led by Montgomery College, C-PAM boasts partnerships with over 40 cyber employers, including military contractors and medical facilities, and seeks to link low-cost training and education to more opportunities to fill and create jobs in Maryland's nation-leading cyber security sector.

The initiative in Maryland targets veterans, the unemployed and underemployed,

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Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) workers, and lower-skilled adult workers by providing education and certificates at reduced costs to fit the needs of both workers and employers urgently seeking skilled labor for their growing businesses.

C-PAM received bipartisan support from Maryland's Congressional Delegation for its application. That support highlighted the consortium's preexisting structure and strategic focus on meeting the needs of employers while also training the next cadre of skilled workers to confront new and emerging data challenges on the nation's digital landscape.

"Maryland is the global epicenter of cyber security, developing the cyber workforce of today to fill cyber jobs that are available now," **Senator Mikulski** said. "I went to bat for Maryland's community colleges along with Team Maryland to secure this federal funding as a down-payment for our middle class. It will help grow our cybersecurity workforce, supporting jobs today and jobs tomorrow. Through cyber education, innovation and hands-on training, we will prepare Maryland students to be our first line of defense against cyber-attacks, making our nation safer and Maryland's economy stronger."

"Maryland is at the epicenter of cyber technology innovation. I am proud of our network of community colleges that are an integral part of training students in the fields that are in-demand right now. Federal investment in inventive programs like C-PAM increase the value of a two-year degree while strengthening our economy," said **Senator Cardin**. "Team Maryland continues to work closely with our state partners to create jobs and improve the educational opportunities for our workforce."

"I'm pleased Maryland's Cyber Technology Pathways Across Maryland Consortium (C-PAM), which includes the College of Southern Maryland in the Fifth District, has received this important funding to provide Maryland workers with the skills training needed for the jobs of today and tomorrow while ensuring Maryland remains at the forefront of cyber-security," stated **Rep. Hoyer (MD-05)**. "I was proud to support the consortium's application, which was strengthened by collaborative partnerships with nearly 40 outside employers, and I will continue to work with the Maryland Congressional Delegation to ensure investments in workforce development continue to be made here in Maryland."

"I am very pleased at the award of this grant to C-PAM," said **Rep. Cummings (MD-07)**. "I am proud that these institutions will continue to provide high quality cyber education to help Marylanders achieve their educational and career aspirations."

"Cyber security presents a tremendous challenge to our country, but also a great opportunity for the State of Maryland in the form of jobs," **Rep. Ruppertsberger (MD-02)** said. "This federal grant will enable our world-class community colleges to train the next generation of cyber warriors while helping Marylanders – especially veterans, the unemployed and lower-skilled adults – provide for their families."

"I supported this important grant so Marylanders have every tool possible to gain employment in the important and well-paying field of cyber-security, which has a high demand for specialized skills," said **Rep. Van Hollen (MD-08)**. "Montgomery College will use this funding to help workers who are negatively impacted by harmful trade practices, veterans, and underrepresented populations to pursue new careers, helping our entire economy."

“With cyberattacks posing one of the most significant threats faced by our nation today, Maryland is leading the effort to protect critical cyber infrastructure,” said **Rep. Sarbanes (MD-03)**. “This important grant from the U.S. Department of Labor will strengthen Maryland’s cybersecurity workforce and create new and exciting career opportunities for Marylanders in one of America’s fastest-growing industries.”

Maryland is already a recognized national leader when it comes to cyber security. This grant, as part of the Department of Labor’s Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training initiative, is welcome news to build on that strong reputation and expand cyber security training in community colleges throughout Maryland. I thank all of our stakeholders for once again working together to bring additional opportunities to Maryland,” **Rep. Edwards (MD-04)** commented.

“It’s a great honor to congratulate the Maryland Community College Consortium on receiving this workforce training grant for cybersecurity skills training. Maryland today has become a leader in cybersecurity and this grant will help you train the next generation of specialists in our nation’s fight against cyber-attacks. As our nation continues to recover from the recent recession, our investment in students and workers is critical to our nation’s ability to compete in the global economy. If want to strengthen our national defense, protect our businesses and put Americans back to work, investing in cyber security and education has to be a top priority,” said **Rep. Delaney (MD-06)**.

The O’Malley-Brown Administration continues to do the things that work to accelerate innovation and [create jobs](#). For three years in a row, Maryland has been named the number one state in the nation for Innovation and Entrepreneurship by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and in 2014 the Chamber also named Maryland #1 for STEM job concentration. Over the last seven years, the O’Malley-Brown Administration has invested \$84 million through InvestMaryland and the Maryland Venture Fund and \$7 million in tax credits to incentivize and support cyber firms in Maryland.

Recognizing the growing need for skills training in the wake of the Great Recession, the O’Malley-Brown Administration set a goal to re-train adult and low-skilled workers and [increase the number of Marylanders receiving skills-training by 20 percent by the end of 2018](#). Working towards that goal, over 195,000 Marylanders received workforce services last year through the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation’s One-Stop Career System, up from 126,000 in FY07. Record education investments through programs like the [O’Malley-Brown Administration’s Early College Innovation Fund](#) have also worked to drive up the number of Maryland students completing Career and Technical Education programs with industry certification by 48% since FY09.



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Maryland Awarded Five-Year \$650 Million Federal Demonstration Project to Improve Child Safety, Prevent Abuse and Reduce Need for Foster Care

September 30th, 2014

BALTIMORE, MD — Governor Martin O'Malley and Lieutenant Governor Brown today announced Maryland is the first state this year authorized by the federal government to conduct a 5-year, \$650 million demonstration project that allows Maryland more flexibility in using federal foster care funds to achieve improved safety, permanency and well-being of vulnerable children. The project includes an extensive planning process and can begin as early as July 1, 2015.

"Every child deserves a home. Maryland's Child Welfare Demonstration project will help us keep more children safe and help keep more families whole," said **Governor O'Malley**. "We would like to thank our federal partners for selecting Maryland to take part in this innovative initiative and for the additional flexibility the waiver allows to invest resources in what works best for strengthening families, protecting children and supporting thriving communities."

Under federal law, federal foster care grant awards made to states under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act can only be used to provide services to children in out-of-home care. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) can approve up to ten states per year to conduct demonstration projects that instead allocate IV-E funds as a block grant and that allow states to more flexibly spend these funds on services that keep children safe at home.

"This Federal funding will support the resources and family-focused programs which will help us find a safe, permanent place to call home for every child in Maryland," said **Lt. Governor Brown**. "While we've driven the number of children in foster care down to 27-year lows, we will not rest until every child in our state has a place to call home."

Maryland's proposal was accepted by DHHS yesterday and includes new approaches to the delivery and financing of child welfare services. Underlying the project is a new trauma-informed child welfare system in which workers are trained to consider the traumatic stress child victims of abuse and neglect experience so that the response is appropriate and minimizes additional stress.

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Preventing child abuse, reaching as many at-risk children and families as possible and avoiding out-of-home placements requires enhancing the current community-based service array. Maryland's flexible funding Demonstration Project creates a system that allows the state to strategically allocate resources to family-centered initiatives that keep children safe within their own families and prevent maltreatment and the secondary trauma often associated with foster care.

"Maryland's Child Welfare Demonstration Project is a catalyst that will help move Maryland forward," said **Department of Human Resources Secretary Ted Dallas**. "The waiver will allow us to serve more children and families in their homes and communities by using proven and cost-effective interventions that meet the unique needs of our families better than out-of-home-placement."

The state's proposal focuses on children age 0-8 and 14-17, which represents 80.5% of all entries into out-of-home placement. The older group represents a growing proportion of the population of youth in foster care. The Demonstration Project will enhance Ready by 21, Maryland's initiative to ensure that teenage foster youth are prepared for the transition into adulthood, by fostering new and effective avenues to collaborate with public, private, faith-based and other organizations to strengthen families and better prepare children to succeed in life.

The new, flexible financing mechanism will help Maryland address the needs and strengths of each family that comes in contact with the child welfare system. Under the O'Malley-Brown administration, DHR has teamed with stakeholders and community partners to implement reforms that have enabled more children to be served through shorter lengths of stay in out-of-home care and in more family-based settings. As a result, there are fewer children in foster care today than any time in the last 27 years.

Since 2007, Maryland has seen dramatic improvement in several key child welfare outcomes:

- More than 19,300 children have found permanent homes through adoption, guardianship or reunification with families;
- The number of children in foster care has been reduced by 48%; and,
- The percentage of children placed in group homes has been driven down from 19% to 10%.

With the waiver, Maryland can now tap federal funds to implement evidence-based interventions aimed at diverting children from foster care when it is safe to do so. DHR's proposal includes several new programs for serving at-risk families, including:

Family Connections: A multi-faceted, community-based program that works with families experiencing difficulty in meeting the basic needs of their children and at-risk for child emotional and/or physical neglect.

Homebuilders: An intensive family preservation program that works with the caregivers to provide in-home crisis intervention, counseling, and life skills education over a short-term period.

SafeCare: An in-home parenting model for parents with children ages 0-5 who are at risk for or have a history of child abuse or neglect. SafeCare provides direct skill training with parents using four modules: health, home safety, parent-child/parent-

infant interactions, and problem solving and communication.

Functional Family Therapy (FFT): FFT is designed for 11-18 year olds with behavioral health problems including conduct problems and substance abuse problems. FFT improves family relationships by teaching families how to promote the safety of their children, improve communication skills and skills for solving family problems.

Casey Family Programs supported DHR in applying for the federal demonstration and will continue to provide technical assistance during the planning and implementation phases of the project.

Click here to view Maryland's full proposal. For more information, visit our website at dhr.maryland.gov.



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